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Sept. 3, 1999

For Immediate Release:

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN TASK FORCE TO VISIT EIU

CHARLESTON -- The School of Family and Consumer Sciences at Eastern Illinois University will host the Illinois Task Force on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Sept. 7, in the University Union's 1895 Room.

The Task Force is sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging and is comprised of leaders of local support groups for grandparents raising their grandchildren, advocates for children and seniors, and representatives from the Departments on Aging, Public Health, Children and Family Services, and Human Services.

The Task Force addresses problems facing grandparents raising grandchildren, and advocates on their behalf with the legislature, the media, public school districts,

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GRANDPARENTS

and social service agencies. It has produced "Tip Sheets" on a variety of topics of interest to grandparents raising grandchildren including legal custody, guardianship, adoption, health insurance, school registration, immunizations, child care and financial assistance.

Tuesday's agenda includes: Requests for proposals for new support group funding; the Grandparent Visitation Bill, HB 1845; the "Safe Kids" program sponsored by the Macon County Health Department; grandparents and tobacco prevention; and kinship care and the 2000 Census.

Visitors are welcome to attend and observe the meeting. For information, contact Mike O'Donnell, co-chair, Illinois Task Force on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, (309) 829-2065, or Barbara Schwartz, staff liaison, Illinois Department on Aging, (217) 524-5327.